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SENATE EDUCATION

EXHIBIT NO. 5

DATE 3-11-2009

BILL NO. HB 488

61<sup>st</sup> Legislature  
Senate Committee  
State Capitol, Room 303  
Helena, MT 59620

Re: HB 0488 A Bill For an Act Entitled: "An Act Revising Territory Transfer Laws Relating to School Districts; Amending Section 20-6-105, MCA; And Providing An Immediate Effective Date."

Dear Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

I am testifying before you today to express my support of HB 488, sponsored by Representative Llew Jones, which would allow taxpayers who reside in School District #19 to transfer their property tax dollars to School District #10.

Our property is located in School District #19, but our children attend school in School District #10 and have all of their school years excluding 1. Our property is on the border of School District #10 and #19. School District #10 agreed to drive up to that boundary line to pick our children up as part of the bus route, along with other children who live in School District #19 consisting of at least five (5) other families at that time years ago.

All of our business and work was done in Conrad, which was only 15 miles from our home. It is time our property taxes support the school that has supported our children for their entire school years. The Conrad School, School District #10, has without hesitation, taken our children in, while our property tax dollars have supported another school district all of these years. In the past our property taxes supported the Brady School while our kids attended the the Conrad School. We had an emotional attachment to the Brady School at that time because my husband had attended the Brady School. The Brady School no longer exists, it has been closed. I would appreciate the opportunity to provide some property tax support back to the school that my children have been attending their entire school years except 1. Please help us attain that goal.

This bill clearly provides the opportunity for landowners to remove their taxes from one school district to the school district that supported their children or their families' children during a time when the school needs it most.

This legislation is necessary to undo this unfortunate situation. Thank you for your time and energy put forth in this matter.

Tammie J. Fagan

Thomas J. Fagan